



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

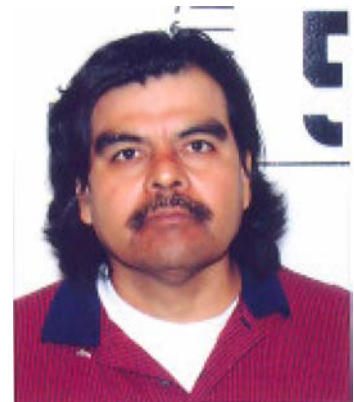
April 21, 2005

News Release

ICE DEPORTS CONVICTED CHILD MOLESTER WHO WAS STRIPPED OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP

OMAHA, Neb.— A Fairfield, Iowa, man who was stripped of U.S. citizenship after being convicted of molesting a young girl over a six-year period was deported Wednesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers.

Luis Mancilla-Ruiz, 45, who emigrated from Mexico in 1986, became a naturalized U.S. citizen in September 2000. The chain of events that led to revoking his citizenship and his deportation began when he was arrested in 2002 by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and convicted in February 2004 for "Lascivious Acts with a Child." The victim was five years old when Mancilla-Ruiz began molesting her in 1993 and continued until she was 11 years old.



ICE special agents, assisted by the Fairfield Police Department, arrested Mancilla-Ruiz May 17, 2004. He was charged in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa with making a false statement under oath when he applied for citizenship, and with fraud in unlawfully procuring U.S. citizenship.

"Revoking U.S. citizenship is relatively rare which demonstrates how serious the crime is," said Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Vail of the Cedar Rapids ICE office. "It's even more unusual for a district court judge to issue an order of removal, since that's typically done by an immigration judge. Pursuing criminals like Mancilla-Ruiz who prey on children is a high priority for ICE."

Even though Mancilla-Ruiz was convicted of the sex crime after being naturalized, he was not legally qualified to obtain U.S. citizenship because he had already committed the offense. Questions on federal form N-400, "Application for Naturalization," ask not only whether the applicant has been convicted of any crimes, but also asks, "Have you ever committed a crime or offense for which you were not arrested?" Mancilla-Ruiz lied when he answered "no" to that question.

Mancilla-Ruiz was sentenced Sept. 27 to one year and one day in prison for making a false statement and committing fraud while procuring U.S. citizenship. In addition, Chief Judge Ronald E. Longstaff revoked his U.S. citizenship and issued an order of removal that directed ICE to deport Mancilla-Ruiz to Mexico. The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa.

"We will not allow child molesters to hide behind fraudulently obtained U.S. citizenship," said ICE St. Paul Field Office Director Scott Baniecke. "Foreign-born sexual predators who victimize the most vulnerable among us will be sought out, apprehended and removed." Baniecke manages ICE Detention and Removal Operations in a five-state area that includes Iowa and Nebraska.

Mancilla-Ruiz's removal is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,300 individuals, including 80 in Iowa.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file Mancilla-Ruiz, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at Tim.Counts@dhs.gov. If you received this news release via e-mail, you may electronically copy the embedded JPEG image for print or broadcast use.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.